

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action of June 23, 2006 in which claims 1-22 were rejected.

In the present amendments, independent claim 1 has been rewritten to include the limitations of claim 7. As such, claim 1 now represents claim 7 rewritten in independent form. Since claim 7 has been thoroughly searched and examined, this amendment does not necessitate any further searching and as such Applicants respectfully request that the amendment be entered and considered.

Former claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee (U.S. Patent No. 6,067,520) in view Witschel (US Patent Publication No. 2001/0051868 A1) and in further view of Hon et al. (US Patent No. 5,852,801, herein after Hon).

The limitations of claim 7, which are now found in independent claim 1 are not shown or suggested by the cited combination of art. In particular, none of the cited references show or suggest estimating a probability for a modified entity given a class based on an n-gram probability associated with a decoded entity and an n-gram probability associated with the class to which the modified entity is added.

In the office action, only Hon was cited as having this limitation. However, Hon does not provide an n-gram probability associated with a class. Hon only describes n-gram probabilities for individual words. Thus, Hon cannot show or suggest estimating a probability for a modified entity based on an n-gram probability associated with the class to which a modified entity is added. Since Lee and Witschel also do not have this limitation, the combination of Lee, Witschel and Hon does not show or suggest the invention of claim 1 or claims 11 and 12, which depend therefrom.

With the present amendment, claim 13 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 17. As such, claim 13 represents claim 17 rewritten in independent form. Since claim 17 was thoroughly searched and examined, no further search is required for this amendment. As such, Applicants respectfully request that this amendment be entered.

Former claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Roberts (US Patent No. 5,765,132) in view of Witschel.

The combination of Roberts and Witschel does not show or suggest the invention of claim 17, now found in claim 13, because neither reference shows the step of estimating a probability for a modified entity in a class entity dictionary based on an n-gram probability associated with a decoded entity and an n-gram probability associated with a class, where the probability provides the probability of the modified entity given a class.

In the Office Action, paragraphs 60-70 of Witschel were cited as showing this limitation. Applicants respectfully dispute this assertion.

The cited paragraphs of Witschel show how the probability of a sequence of words may be computed. The probability that is computed does not give the probability of an entity given a class as required by amended claim 13. Further, although the cited section uses an n-gram associated with a class, it does not use any other n-grams. The other two terms in equation 4 are not n-grams.

Since neither Roberts nor Witschel show or suggest estimating a probability of a modified entity given a class based on an n-gram probability associated with a decoded entity and an n-gram probability associated with a class, claim 13 and claims 20 and 21, which depend therefrom, are patentable over the cited art.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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